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BOOK REVIEWS.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. By HENRY OSBORNE TAYLOR. Fifth edition. Pp. xvii + 969. New York: Banks Law Publishing Company. 1902.

This book, as its name implies, is a treatise of the law regulating business enterprises which are prosecuted through the instrumentality of corporate organization.

In Chapters I to VI a short history of the Roman and old Common Law view of corporations, and the law applicable thereto is given; the development of corporations in modern times is traced, and the present attitude of the law toward them is set forth. The author shows that the idea of regarding a corporation as "*a legal person*" is now exploded, and that the present tendency is to disregard this absurd fiction and to take a really intelligent view of the matter. By dismissing this fiction we can really find out who the actual human beings interested are, and thus determine their rights without unnecessary mystification.

In Chapter VII the author turns to the legal effects of acts done by or on behalf of a corporation. Among other things treated under this head there is given a most excellent discussion of that very difficult subject known as "*acts ultra vires*," upon which the courts have expressed such a diversity of opinion.

Chapters VIII to XVII are devoted to the relationship of the corporation to its officers, shareholders and creditors, and their relationship to each other. The book closes with an appendix showing the modern methods of forming a corporation.

The author takes up the question of the law of "*trusts and monopolies*"; and their latest development, the "Securities Company," is briefly discussed in Section 309d.

Mr. Taylor's book is without doubt a very valuable contribution to one of the most important branches of modern jurisprudence. The record of the book, in having successfully gone through five editions since 1884, when it first appeared, speaks for itself.

W. F. N.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOWA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION. Pp. 227. Tipton Iowa. Conservative. 1902.

This report bears evidence to an enthusiastic meeting, to new and far-reaching work for the benefit of its entire state by the

Bar Association, and to a victory won by the Association in securing a betterment of the conditions as to requirements for admission to the bar.

Among the numerous papers read we would call attention to that by J. H. McConologue on "Justice Samuel F. Miller—His Life Career and Character. The Great Work He Did for His Country;" and to that on "Some Legal Phases of Insanity," by Paul E. Carpenter.

J. G. K.

TEXT-BOOK OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY. By JOHN J. REESE, M. D., Late Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology in the University of Pennsylvania; late President of the Medical Jurisprudence Society of Philadelphia Sixth edition. Revised by HENRY LEFFMANN, A. M., M. D., Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania; Pathological Chemist to the Jefferson Medical College Hospital; Vice-President (British) Society of Public Analysts. Pp. xvi + 660. Philadelphia: P. Blackiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut St. 1902.

It was the object of Dr. Reese in the first edition of his treatise to condense the essentials of medical jurisprudence into a handy volume "to meet the wants of Legal Medicine." It remained for Dr. Leffmann to follow in their growth the subjects discussed by the author, and to show the changes that have occurred with the progress of time. The revising editor says: "Since the publication of the last edition of this work the subject of toxicology has been much developed;" but, he adds, "the general character of the book as it left the hand of its distinguished author has been retained."

That the medical science makes more rapid strides than the law, there can be no doubt. The law develops. Medicine advances at once by development and by discovery. Hence the need of keeping Dr. Reese's little text-book absolutely modern and up to date. Many recent cases and accidents of note have been inserted in the present edition.

The plan of the author of condensing the work to the mere "essentials of the science" has been preserved by the editor, so far as to avoid any citation whatever of even the most important cases. McNaghten's case, for instance, is mentioned by name in the discussion of insanity, but no reference is given as to its date, or to the place where it is reported. One case discussed at some length (p. 301 *et seq.*) is not mentioned by name, but is merely referred to as "a somewhat remarkable case . . . tried in Philadelphia in 1854." The case was one of but a few on the specific subject, and is largely discussed by Wharton and Stillé in their work on medical jurisprudence,